

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1245

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### THE NEED FOR SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, small businesses are the local engines that drive our national economy, so we must always keep their needs as a centerpiece in our budget priorities in Congress. As we analyze our future budget outlook in the weeks ahead, we need to work together to protect our small businesses.

Yesterday, I met with a group of small business owners from the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce back in my district. Hearing them talk about the myriad challenges facing them and their businesses served as a reminder of how critical it is for us to continue providing them the tax relief that they need to continue to create new jobs across our country. We need to extend and make permanent small business tax relief provisions that are critical to our continued economic growth.

We need to continue the increased expensing rules for small businesses, and we should increase the deduction this year to an amount of greater than \$100,000. This Congress has many concerns where it needs to focus on budgetary concerns, but let us not forget the needs of America's small businesses.

The more we do to help small businesses, the more jobs they create for local residents in New York and across the country. Small businesses in America create almost seven out of 10 new jobs. We need to keep those small businesses and the people working.

#### THE REPUBLICAN-DUBAI PORT DEAL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the United Arab Emirates port deal is nothing new from the Bush administration. Over the past 5 years, President Bush has mastered back-room deals and secrecy, but now his administration's actions are threatening our homeland security. The United Arab Emirates deal was approved by the Bush administration despite national security concerns raised by both the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Coast Guard.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission has identified America's seaports as particularly vulnerable to attacks because only 6 percent of all cargo containers are screened. The world's busiest port, Hong Kong, can screen 100 percent of their containers. Why can we not do it here at home?

The Bush administration shares responsibility with Republicans here in Congress for the vulnerabilities that now exist at our ports. Democrats listened to the Coast Guard and we listened to the 9/11 Commission, and we tried to increase funding for port security.

House Republicans have opposed these efforts despite the fact the Coast Guard says they need \$4.6 billion over the next 10 years to properly secure our ports.

Madam Speaker, Republican rhetoric on homeland security is not enough. It is time for action. Put Democrats in charge, and we will get 100 percent container inspection, and we will have real port security in this country.

#### AMERICA'S ECONOMY IS BOOMING

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, our economy is booming. I know that may come as a surprise to some of our colleagues across the aisle, and certainly to some of the mainstream media. But our unemployment rate is now at 4.7 percent, and that is lower than the average unemployment rate in the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s. Yes, lower than each of those decades.

And where are the headlines that would praise the smart tax plan that helped to get us there? In January, America created 193,000 new jobs. That is 2 million new jobs in just over the past year.

4.7 million new jobs in the past 30 months. Republicans are not going to play I-told-you-so, but it is pretty obvious that the tax reductions passed in 2003 helped Americans dig out of a recession and get back to work. We will keep on pushing that sort of fair, flatter, simpler tax code that Main Street

America needs to keep creating great jobs.

#### CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

(Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, 45 years ago today, President Kennedy created the Peace Corps, saying: "It will not be easy. None of the men or women will be paid a salary. They will live at the same level as the citizens of the country to which they are sent, doing the same work, eating the same food, speaking the same language."

On this anniversary, let us celebrate the service of the more than 180,000 brave Americans who have answered President Kennedy's call to service and served our Nation and the world as Peace Corps volunteers.

In 1961, President Kennedy made peace a priority, and peace must remain a priority for our Nation. So for their commitment of hope, friendship and peace, I applaud the nearly 7,800 Americans, including almost 200 Minnesotans who are currently proudly serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

The service of these volunteers and all of the returned Peace Corps volunteers make America proud.

Happy Birthday Peace Corps.

#### AN EASY MATH EQUATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the positive economic news that continues to pour in. These new numbers demonstrate that Republicans' pro-growth economic policies are working.

January's unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent, which is the lowest monthly rate since 2001, and lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. There have been 29 consecutive months of job gains. The economy has created over 2 million jobs over the past 12 months.

Real household net worth is at \$51.1 trillion, an all-time high. And finally the Commerce Department just reported that the GDP grew at a 1.6 percent rate in the fourth quarter, up from an original estimate of 1.1 percent.

This encouraging economic news is proof that lower taxes, plus restrained Federal spending, equals economic growth. However, this is a math equation that Democrats just cannot seem to grasp. Perhaps it is because they keep trying to substitute new variables: taxing plus spending will never equal economic growth and prosperity.

However, the Republican formula of lower taxes plus restrained Federal spending will always come out in favor of the American taxpayers and their checkbooks.